11: Scheffer O-4,5 (ca. 1660) 1704
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dry Cheeſe and Water, is without Queſtion the Reaſon, that tho' whilſt the Men and Women are Abroad in their Lords Service, and lye without any diſtinction of Sexes theſe few Hours they have allow'd them for Reſt in the Barns, yet they are ſo far from being ſenſible of thoſe pleaſing Motions, which are ſo natural to others, that it is next to a Miracle, to hear of a Baſtard begot betwixt them; unleſs we would attribute this Defect to the Coldneſs of the Climate, it being certain, that in thoſe Parts they are more regardleſs in this reſpect than the more Southern Nations; nothing being more common here, than for Men and Women to ſit promiſcuouſly at one long Table, in order to undreſs themſelves, before they go into the publick Bath-ſtoves, where both Sexes are attended only by Women; and in private Houſes, both Men and Women frequently enter the Bath-ſtoves together, without making any great Account of the Matter.

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As this Slavery renders them incapable of thinking of a future State, ſo all their Thoughts are bent upon this Life, tho' it be never ſo Miſerable; which is the Reaſon that when they take an Oath at Law, they add this Curſe, *That if they Swear Falſe, the Curſe of God may fall upon their Bodies as well as Souls, and that their Children, as well as every thing elſe that appertains to them, may feel the Effects of it, to the ninth Generation*: In *Eſthonie*, and about *Riga*, when the Peaſants are to take an Oath at Law, they put a Turf upon their Heads, with a white Staff in their Hands, intimating, that if they Swear falſely, then their Children, and Cattel may become as dry as the Turf and Stick. This as well as the putting of a Needle and Thread into the Graves of their deceaſed Friends, ſavours much of the beforementioned Pagan Superſtitions of their Anceſtors; but they have others, beſides theſe, which may very well be look'd upon as the true Relicks of them. Thus they frequently perform their Devotions upon Hills, or near a certain Tree, in which they make many Inciſions, and after they have bound them up with ſome red Stuff, offer their Prayers here, which always tend to temporal Bleſſings. Thus they go on Pilgrimage every *Lady-Day* to an old, ruin'd Chappel, two Leagues from *Kunda*, betwixt *Rival* and *Narua*, where they ſtrip themſelves of their Cloths; and after they have been Kneeling a while in the midſt of

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